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TRADE OF

SWATOW

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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FOREIGN OFFICE,
July, 1905.

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No. 3455 Annual Series.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

CHINA.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904

ON THE

TRADE OF SWATOW.

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORT, Annual Series No. 3155.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
JULY, 1905

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Reference to previous Report, Annual Series No. 3155.

Report on the Trade of Swatow for the Year 1904

By Mr. Acting Consul Willis.

(Swatow, May 27, 1905 ; received at Foreign Office, July 3, 1905.)

Although there have been no developments calling for special comment, the trade of this port has proceeded during the past year along its normal channels with results that cannot be considered otherwise than satisfactory. General remarks.

The gross trade for the year has exceeded 50,000,000 taels, and estimated either in taels or sterling is the highest on record since the opening of the port. Gross trade.

The following figures show the gross trade for the 10 years 1895–1904, and for the last three years divided into imports of foreign and native origin, exports and re-exports :—

Table showing Gross Trade during the Years 1895–1904.

Year.	Value.		Average Rate of Exchange.
	Currency.	Sterling.	
	Taels.	£	*s. d.*
1895	27,231,034	4,453,383	3 3¼
1896	27,532,036	4,588,672	3 4
1897	28,832,133	4,324,819	3 0
1898	35,930,384	5,164,995	2 10½
1899	45,696,865	6,854,529	3 0
1900	44,030,734	6,833,996	3 1¼
1901	45,043,136	6,662,630	2 11½
1902	45,098,116	5,862,755	2 7½
1903	44,442,802	5,853,629	2 7⅝
1904	50,350,864	7,211,713	2 10⅜

TABLE showing Trade in Imports, Exports and Re-exports during the Years 1902–04.

	Value.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£
Imports of foreign origin ..	1,875,720	1,855,928	2,048,185
„ native „ ..	2,398,178	2,344,892	2,909,826
Exports (local)..	1,522,824	1,569,718	2,100,436
Re-exports	66,033	83,091	153,266
Total	5,862,755	5,853,629	7,211,713

Rise in exchange.

During the year the value of the Mexican dollar, in which all transactions are carried on in this port, has advanced with some fluctuations from 1*s.* 8$\frac{7}{8}$*d.* to 1*s.* 11$\frac{9}{16}$*d.* Exports to gold-using countries being unimportant, the higher gold value of silver has not had any considerable effect on the price of goods grown or manufactured in the neighbourhood, and it is therefore to be hoped that the marked development of the export trade is due to more permanent causes.

Imports. Cotton goods.

The higher exchange may have been of some assistance to importers of Manchester piece-goods in helping to reduce their cost, which was much enhanced by the very high price of raw cotton during the greater part of the year; but this trade was considerably checked by the high prices which obtained tending to reduce consumption, whilst the fluctuations in exchange continued to hamper the transactions of the importers. There has further been a considerable transference of the indigo dyeing industry from Chaochou Fu to Shanghai, and consequently a smaller import of the white and grey cloths which were formerly dyed here for re-export to the northern markets. In view of these considerations the slight increase in the import of cottons is satisfactory.

Yarn.

Indian yarn practically monopolises the local markets. In spite of the increased price a quantity in excess of that of the preceding year was imported.

Opium.

It is somewhat curious that the import of foreign opium, which is generally taken as an index to the prosperity of a district, has considerably declined in value in a year in which almost every other article of import shows an increase. The falling-off was almost entirely in Malwa, of which only 86,216 lbs., value 59,367*l.*, were imported against 330,341 lbs., value 265,498*l.*, in the preceding year. Patna and Benares opium both show a considerable advance, whilst the import of the native drug has increased from 79,599 lbs. in 1903 to 196,518 lbs., thus more than compensating for the total decrease in the import of the various kinds of the foreign article.

The manufacture of prepared opium by mixing the foreign with the native drug is a large and flourishing industry in this

district, and it would seem that the boiling shops are attempting to dispense with the more expensive Malwa opium in favour of the cheaper varieties.

Other articles of import.

The other principal articles of foreign import, with the exception of raw cotton and ginseng, all show an advance, due mainly, however, to the higher exchange value of silver, the quantities imported being much the same as in the previous year.

Native imports.

Of native imports bean cake, rice and opium have all increased in value. The price of bean cake was considerably enhanced owing to the difficulty of procuring supplies from Newchwang, whilst the increased import of rice was due to the fact that the local crops, which in 1903 had been exceptionally good in both quality and quantity, were of only an average standard.

Exports.

Exports which are destined almost entirely for other ports in China or for the use of Chinese resident in the British and Dutch East Indian colonies and Siam, show a very satisfactory advance in every direction, the increase being in quantity as well as value.

Emigration.

Emigrants both to Bangkok and the Straits have departed in considerably less numbers than in 1903; but, as I pointed out in my report for that year, the competition then existing between rival shipping lines offered exceptional facilities to the Swatow coolie for obtaining cheap passages. Now that the Rickmers' steamers are incorporated in the Nord-Deutscher Lloyd fleet, and the British India Line have withdrawn from the traffic, freight and passenger rates have approximated to their old level, and the number of emigrants has fallen off to the normal quantity of about 100,000 annually.

No emigrants have as yet proceeded to South Africa from this district, the port so far not having been declared a port of shipment under the Anglo-Chinese Convention of May, 1904.

Shipping.

The decrease in British shipping is due mainly to the withdrawal of the British India Line from the emigration traffic, already mentioned, and the sale to foreigners of two or three steamers of the Douglas Steamship Company of Hong-Kong, which formerly plied regularly between that port and Foochow or Formosan ports, viâ Swatow and Amoy.

The gain to German and Norwegian shipping is at the expense of the Japanese, four Japanese steamers of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Company running on the same line as the Douglas boats having been withdrawn on the outbreak of hostilities, and German and Norwegian vessels having been chartered by the company to replace them.

Railway to Chaochou Fu.

The concession for the long-mooted railway between this port and Chaochou Fu has been, as mentioned in my preceding report, granted to one Chang Yünan, a Chinese merchant who has for many years been resident in the Dutch Indies. The contract for building the line, which is to be 32 miles in length, with seven intermediate stations, and for the supply of rolling-stock, was given by the concessionnaire to a Japanese syndicate. Work on the line

commenced in September last, but, owing to the marshy nature of the ground in the vicinity of Swatow, proceeded but slowly, until in January, 1905, it was delayed for some three months by an unfortunate outbreak at Anpo, a market town of considerable size about 10 miles distant from Swatow, in which two Japanese workmen were killed and the property of several Chinese in the employ of the railway company, together with some railway material, destroyed. The matter is now settled and work is resumed, the concessionnaire having been required by the Viceroy to provide 200 guards for the railway.

Disorderly state of district.

The Chaochou Fu prefecture, more especially as regards the Kityang and Lufeng districts, still continues in its state of chronic disorder, and it would appear that the local authorities have not sufficient force at their disposal to maintain order.

New police force at Swatow.

In Swatow itself a police force of some 300 men has been recently enrolled, the cost of which is paid by voluntary subscriptions.

I have to thank the Commissioner of Customs for his courtesy in allowing me access to the returns before publication.

Table I.—Return of Principal Articles of Import into Swatow during the Years 1903–04.

Articles.		1903.		1904.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Foreign imports—			£		£
Opium—					
Malwa	Lbs. ...	330,341	265,498	86,216	59,367
Patna	,, ...	279,139	192,852	313,594	245,914
Benares	,, ...	91,901	63,825	209,454	147,375
Persian	,, ...	84,092	53,475	37,291	22,707
Total	,, ...	785,473	575,650	646,555	475,363
Cotton goods—					
Shirtings, grey	Pieces ...	119,722	48,681	106,570	43,916
,, white ...	,, ...	257,880	140,374	235,409	131,403
T-cloths	,, ...	33,088	9,976	28,314	9,040
Dyed cottons and drills	,, ...	65,083	43,593	74,443	64,358
Miscellaneous cottons ...	...	...	28,071	...	38,686
Total cottons ...	...	...	270,695	...	287,403
Yarn—					
British	Cwts. ...	3,077	9,254	646	2,994
Indian	,, ...	168,940	390,607	172,314	526,554
Woollens	...	...	17,984	....	18,439
Metals	...	...	102,205	...	133,758
Oil—					
American...	Gallons ...	379,990	10,059	480,040	14,053
Sumatran	,, ...	4,095,940	70,646	4,554,763	91,711
Sundries—					
Bêche-de-mer	Cwts. ...	3,150	7,630	2,695	9,833
Coal	Tons ...	62,343	40,123	56,715	45,490
Cotton, raw	Cwts. ...	5,442	10,189	1,285	3,237
Cuttlefish...	,,	12,708	22,919	16,040	33,440
Fish	,, ...	6,553	5,459	11,717	11,394
Flour	Cwts. ...	73,234	33,787	74,859	44,685
Ginseng	Lbs. ...	43,301	13,479	24,548	7,955
Leather	...	...	3,931	...	3,247
Matches (Japanese) ...	Gross ...	831,560	30,276	904,951	36,612
Medicines...	...	...	21,191	...	24,479
Rice	Cwts. ...	6,376	2,103	52,534	17,073
Sugar	,,	36,972	26,101	39,188	30,174
Unenumerated	...	...	191,640	...	230,291
Total foreign imports	...	...	1,855,928	...	2,048,185
Native imports—					
Bean cake	Cwts. ...	3,024,043	663,260	2,612,097	777,882
Beans	,, ...	1,079,680	337,739	1,046,436	361,634
Cloth, native	,, ...	2,813	16,513	3,033	20,174
Cotton, raw...	,, ...	5,093	10,332	13,732	31,315
Fish, salted...	,, ...	9,645	5,559	11,822	7,158
Fungus	,, ...	2,684	9,230	1,941	11,888
Groundnuts	,, ...	119,250	39,183	61,855	20,839
Hemp	,, ...	81,182	97,218	63,179	99,729
Medicines	...	...	12,194	...	17,382
Oil, bean, castor, &c. ...	Cwts. ...	41,365	41,992	36,735	43,310
Opium, Ssuch'uan ...	Lbs. ...	71,066	38,990	156,449	60,112
,, Yünnan	,, ...	1,200	577	5,691	2,507
,, Kiangsu	,, ...	7,333	3,966	34,378	17,242
Rice	Tons ...	114,243	749,725	156,110	1,040,686
Samshu	Cwts. ...	40,466	29,564	46,406	34,944
Silk piece-goods	...	...	48,636	...	67,915
Tea, black	Cwts. ...	6,826	16,606	7,259	17,996
Vermicelli	,, ...	34,011	24,150	31,465	28,700
Wax, white...	,, ...	445	2,734	739	5,204
Wheat	,, ...	208,870	51,188	196,045	49,167
Unenumerated	...	...	145,536	...	194,042
Total native imports...	...	...	2,344,892	...	2,909,826
,, foreign ,, ...	...	...	1,855,928	...	2,048,185
,, imports... ...	...	...	4,200,820	...	4,958,011

Table II.—RETURN of Principal Articles of Export of Native Produce from Swatow during the Years 1903–04.

Articles.		1903.		1904.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Bags, gunny ..	Pieces..	2,398,597	12,635	2,980,662	18,633
Beans and peas ..	Cwts. ..	38,657	11,680	48,858	19,766
Chinaware	„ ..	33,490	18,296	27,889	16,765
Cloth, native ..	..	..	76,649	..	61,074
Clothing	..	..	16,020	..	16,751
Eggs	Pieces..	35,537,139	34,285	39,099,860	44,968
Feathers	..	..	5,080	..	7,052
Fire-crackers ..	..	..	5,527	..	6,492
Flour, potato ..	Cwts. ..	65,172	17,076	60,632	19,147
Grass-cloth.. ..	„ ..	5,758	70,746	6,875	113,740
Groundnuts and pulp	„ ..	64,869	24,142	51,425	22,712
Hair, human ..	..	..	4,817	..	7,577
Hemp	Cwts. ..	39,185	29,662	35,855	42,365
Indigo	„ ..	39,794	..	72,048	32,270
Joss sticks	„ ..	30,586	21,443	29,393	23,602
Medicines	..	..	5,852	..	6,853
Oil, bean, &c. ..	Cwts. ..	11,256	12,249	29,923	41,504
Oranges	„ ..	129,390	28,175	152,439	45,902
Paper	„ ..	159,324	201,692	172,689	250,518
Samshu	„ ..	22,733	17,425	28,903	25,027
Sugar—					
Brown	„ ..	703,366	299,712	704,731	399,177
White	„ ..	501,220	323,001	563,766	467,368
Tea	„ ..	17,333	43,633	17,913	72,987
Tinfoil	„ ..	2,209	16,712	3,695	31,286
Tobacco	„ ..	39,903	105,043	39,188	124,079
Vegetables	„ ..	230,840	21,849	252,951	27,995
Vermicelli	„ ..	17,305	5,977	17,193	8,331
Unenumerated ..	..	..	203,978	..	286,614
Total ..	..	..	1,633,356	..	2,240,555

Table III.—RETURN comparing Values of 1904 with the Average Values of the Years from 1899–1903 for the Principal Articles of Import and Export.

Articles.	Value.	
	Average from 1899-1903.	1904.
	£	£
Foreign imports—		
Cottons and yarn	660,628	816,951
Opium	511,465	475,363
Kerosene..	88,820	105,764
Flour	52,783	44,685
Woollens..	19,816	18,439
Metals	108,812	133,758
Native imports—		
Bean and bean cake	1,089,461	1,139,516
Native opium	61,216	79,861
Rice (including imports from foreign countries)	931,139	1,057,759
Exports—		
Cloth, native	84,130	61,074
Grass-cloth	71,260	113,740
Sugar	824,219	866,545
Tobacco	108,304	124,079
Paper	200,178	250,508

Table IV.—RETURN of all Steamers that Entered and Cleared the Port of Swatow during the Years 1903–04.

Nationality.	1903.		1904.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
Austro-Hungarian ..	4	2,472	..	..
British	1,600	1,835,894	1,520	1,718,406
Chinese	79	82,812	87	84,644
Dutch	12	18,590	8	14,708
French	10	7,084	12	12,980
German..	449	481,145	601	590,599
Japanese	416	360,010	44	37,392
Norwegian	34	32,892	138	116,498
Swedish..	4	3,956	2	1,396
Total	..	2,824,855	..	2,576,623

Table V.—EMIGRATION Return.

Country.	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Coast ports	5,728	5,206	4,767	4,254
Hong-Kong	76,392	71,419	15,062	13,245
Bangkok	22,635	..	34,538	25,064
Saigon	..	260	11,490	5,821
Straits	..	14,633	61,293	52,554
Sumatra..	243	142	6,968	6,459
Apia	..	..	303	..
Sandakhan	..	..	..	59
Total	104,998	91,660	134,421	107,456

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